

By: Hernandez

H.B. No. 1439

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an educational publication for judicial guidance on cases involving a child who may be eligible for special immigrant juvenile status.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 22, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 22.020 to read as follows:

Sec. 22.020. EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATION FOR JUDICIAL GUIDANCE RELATED TO SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS. (a) The Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families established by the supreme court shall develop a comprehensive, educational publication to provide judicial guidance in determining a court's jurisdiction and presiding over a case that involves a child who may be eligible for special immigrant juvenile status, as defined by 8 U.S.C. Section 1101, and in making findings and issuing orders to assist in determining the child's eligibility for that status.

(b) The publication must:

(1) include information about:

(A) federal law relating to special immigrant juvenile status;

(B) existing jurisdiction of courts in this state over cases involving a child who may be eligible for special immigrant juvenile status;

(C) definitions of abuse, neglect, and

1 abandonment in Texas law; and

2 (D) findings necessary for a child to be granted  
3 special immigrant juvenile status;

4 (2) be compiled into a single document; and

5 (3) be made available in hard copy and electronic  
6 formats.

7 (c) The commission shall distribute the publication:

8 (1) electronically to each court in this state with  
9 jurisdiction over juvenile cases;

10 (2) in hard copy format at judicial conferences and  
11 meetings; and

12 (3) in hard copy format on request.

13 SECTION 2. The Permanent Judicial Commission for Children,  
14 Youth and Families shall develop and distribute to each court in  
15 this state with jurisdiction over juvenile cases the educational  
16 publication required by Section 22.020, Government Code, as added  
17 by this Act, not later than September 1, 2016.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.